of quality and because such imports are cheaper at the coastal region. In addition, steel plants are importing coking coal to (i) bridge the gap between requirement and indigenous availability of coking coal of the required quality and (ii) to improve the quality of overall blend for technical reasons for improving performance of blast furnace.

Export of ALH

771. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is exporting the indigenously developed Advanced Light Helicopter;

(b) if so, the countries where it is being exported; and

(c) the annual production of ALH by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Preliminary discussions of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) with some potential customers have been held. However, no exports of the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), Dhruv, have yet taken place.

(c) During 2001-02, HAL produced seven ALH for Defence Forces and the Coast Guard. During 2002-03, HAL have planned production of eleven ALH for customers within India.

Construction of houses for Defence personnel

772. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Defence has proposed construction of dwelling units for Defence personnel;

(b) if so, whether such dwelling units would be for the benefit of ex-personnel of Defence also and on ownership basis;

(c) if so, whether any construction is proposed to take place in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?